

MEDATA BASED FILE SWITCH AND SWITCHED FILE SYSTEM

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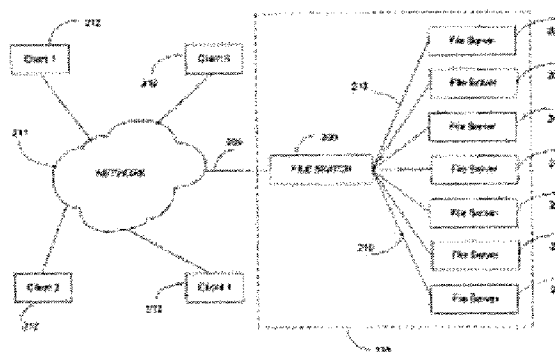
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Client computers are decoupled from file servers in a computer network, by placing a network node, also termed a file switch or file switch computer, between the client computers and the file servers. To the client computers, the file switch appears to be a file server having enormous storage capabilities and high throughput. To the file servers, the file switch appears to be a client as it delegates a single transaction received from a client computer to multiple file servers. The file switch aggregates the file server's responses to the client computer's request and presents a single response back to the client computer. The file switch performs this transaction aggregation function in a manner that is transparent to both the client computers and the file servers.



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